



Utah County's first courthouse and jail, completed in 1867, was located on the block between First and Second East and First and Second North, where the woolen mills were built, and P. E. Ashton's stands today. *Courtesy of O. Blaine Larson.*

It was not until 30 June 1858 that Brigham Young finished negotiations with Cumming and convinced the people that they could return to Salt Lake City. The army, which was now approaching the valley, did not commit any hostile actions but crossed the Jordan River and camped about 37 miles southward at Camp Floyd.

With the presence of the United States troops the Mormon people, although they had now returned to their various homes, were still uneasy. United States judges from the East, still certain that the polygamous Mormons represented a dangerous threat to the American way of life and the constitution by so closely combining church and state, set up courts in various areas to try the people. A Judge Sinclair convened court in Salt Lake City in October of 1858 and tried to sentence the people on grounds of treason and polygamy. He did not put many in prison, however. In Provo Judge Cradlebaugh, known later as "One-Eyed Jeffries," caused many problems for the Provo settlers. When he convened his court, he astonished the people by bringing in 100 soldiers from Camp Floyd. He explained to the

citizens that the presence of this militarized them from having to construct a jail. He thought that he secretly believed the army and the successful court session would encourage the Mormon people to overthrow the despotic government and set themselves free.

Instead, the Provo citizens were enraged by the presence of this "walking calamity." They demanded the removal of the troops. In reply, Judge Cradlebaugh simply ordered more men from Camp Floyd. Finally Governor Cumming came to investigate the situation. He told General Johnston, in charge of Camp Floyd's army, to withdraw the troops, but General Johnston said he would cooperate with the judicial government with the executive. Cumming protested to the attorney general at Washington. While they were in Provo, Cradlebaugh tried to convict the Mormons for various crimes, but he was unsuccessful. Finally by the time General Johnston arrived that the troops were withdrawn, Johnston had already decided to move them to Camp Floyd.

The withdrawal of the troops was a relief. Sixteen platoons of infantry that had been on the outskirts entered the city to join the militia. Coming in by the north gate, they marched southward down Main Street while playing "Doo Dah." At about three o'clock the seminary they made an about-face and commenced the return march while playing "The Girl I Left Behind Me." Eight hundred infantry joined them at the courthouse. The grand military expedition began its march back to Camp Floyd.